

D3  
Amended

a transport device[,  
comprising} having  
a drive shaft rotatable  
around a rotational axis of said  
drive shaft;  
at least two conveyors  
[arranged at said transport  
device] for at least one  
workpiece each[, said transport  
device comprising], and a  
transport arm for each conveyor  
[projecting from] operatively  
associated with said drive shaft;  
said arms being  
operatively coupled to said  
conveyors to move said conveyors  
independently of each other  
relative to said drive shaft and  
to have at least a radial  
movement component relative to  
the drive shaft rotational axis  
via encapsulated, independent  
drives, said drives controlling  
closing and opening of said  
openings with movement of said  
conveyors relative to said drive  
shaft.

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

D4

16. (Three Times Amended) A vacuum chamber for processing at least one workpiece, comprising at least two openings defining respective opening areas [for treating or handling said at least one workpiece thereat]; a transport device with a drive shaft for rotating said transport device around a rotational axis of said drive shaft; at least two conveyors [arranged at said transport device for the workpiece thereof, said transport device further comprising], and a transport arm for each conveyor [projecting from] operatively associated with said drive shaft[;said arms] and each being operatively coupled to one of said conveyors to move said conveyors independently of each other relative to said drive shaft, said transport arms having at least a radial movement component relative to said drive shaft rotational axis via encapsulated independent drives.

Please amend Claim 30 as follows:

54967  
D5

30. (Amended) A vacuum chamber with at least two openings and a workpiece transport arrangement with which at least one workpiece within the chamber is selectively brought into a position adjacent to one of said openings, whereby the transport arrangement is provided within the chamber rotatably around a rotational axis and carries at least two members for holding a workpiece each, a rotation drive is provided to rotate said workpiece transport arrangement, and at least two

*D5 comply*

displacement drives are provided  
form displacing said at least one  
workpiece each with respect to  
said transport arrangement  
whereby said members are  
selectively brought into a  
position aligned with one of said  
openings by rotation of said  
transport arrangement and from  
such position a workpiece is  
displaceable towards and from  
said opening by one of said  
displacement drives, and said  
member and said displacement  
drives are operatively mounted on  
said transport arrangement  
rotation drive, said displacement  
drive being arranged to control  
closing and opening of respective  
ones of said at least two  
openings.

Please amend Claim 32 as follows:

*Sds 287*

*D6*

32. (Amended) A vacuum  
chamber, comprising  
at least two openings  
defining respective opening  
areas; and a transport device  
operatively arranged relative to  
the at least two openings and  
including a member movable  
relative to a rotational axis  
thereof, at least two conveyors  
for transporting at least one  
workpiece each, and at least one  
linear drive for each of said at  
least two conveyors being  
operatively coupled between said  
movable member and a respective  
conveyor of said at least two  
conveyors and configured to  
linearly move said respective  
conveyors relative to said  
movable member independently from  
other conveyors of said at least  
two conveyors, said at least one  
linear drives being arranged to

D6  
amend

control closing and opening of  
said at least two openings.

Please amend Claim 33 as follows:

D7

33. (Amended) A vacuum  
chamber with at least two  
openings and a workpiece  
transport arrangement with which  
at least one workpiece within the  
chamber is selectively brought  
into a position adjacent to one  
of said openings, whereby the  
transport arrangement is provided  
within the chamber rotatably  
around a rotational axis and  
carries at least one member for  
holding a workpiece, a rotation  
drive is provided to rotate said  
workpiece transport arrangement,  
and a sealed displacement drive  
is arranged between said  
transport arrangement and said at  
least one member for displacing a  
workpiece with respect to said  
transport arrangement, whereby  
said member is selectively  
brought into a position aligned  
with one of said openings by  
rotation of said transport  
arrangement and from such  
position a workpiece is  
displaceable towards and from  
said opening by said displacement  
drive, and said member and said  
displacement drive are  
operatively mounted relative to  
said transport arrangement  
rotation drive, said displacement  
drive being further arranged to  
control opening and closing of  
said opening.

Please amend Claim 34 as follows:

D8

34. (Amended) A method of  
processing at least one  
workpiece, comprising the steps  
of

rotating a transport device member around a rotational axis to bring the at least one workpiece adjacent an opening in a vacuum chamber having at least two openings, and

moving at least two conveyors with at least one movement component radial relative to said rotational axis, independently of each other relative to the transport device member so as selectively to move the at least one workpiece towards and away from the adjacent opening and thereby controlling opening and closing of said opening.

D8  
cancel of

Please add the following claims:

35. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said closing is a sealing closing.

D9

36. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein, for processing at least one disk-shaped workpiece, said conveyors are configured to hold at least one of said workpieces with a predetermined positioning of a disk plane thereof, and said drive shaft arranged to move said conveyors in a direction which is offset with respect to said disk plane.

37. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein said offset direction is perpendicular to said disk plane.

38. The chamber of claim 16, wherein said closing is a sealing closing.

39. The chamber of claim 16, wherein, for processing at least one disk-shaped workpiece,

*D9*  
*2/21/76*

said conveyors are configured to hold at least one of said workpieces with a predetermined positioning of a disk plane thereof, and said drive shaft arranged to move said conveyors in a direction which is offset with respect to said disk plane.

40. The chamber of claim 39, wherein said offset direction is perpendicular to said disk plane.

41. The chamber of claim 30, wherein said members are arranged to perform the closing.

42. The chamber of claim 30, wherein the closing is a sealing closing.

43. The chamber of claim 30, wherein, for processing at least one disk-shaped workpiece, said members are configured to hold at least one of said workpieces with a predetermined positioning of a disk plane thereof, and said at least one disk-shaped workpiece is arranged to be displaceable by said displacement drive in a direction which is offset with respect to said disk plane.

44. The chamber of claim 43, wherein said offset direction is perpendicular to said disk plane.

45. The chamber of claim 32, wherein the closing is a sealing closing.

46. The chamber of claim 32, wherein said at least one workpiece is a disk-shaped workpiece, and said at least one

linear drive has a direction which is offset with respect to a plane of said disk-shaped workpiece.

✓ 47. The chamber of claim 46, wherein the direction is perpendicular to said plane.

✓ 48. The chamber of claim 32, wherein said at least one linear drive is encapsulated within said chamber.

49. The chamber of claim 33, wherein the closing is a sealing closing.

50. The chamber of claim 33, wherein said displacement drive is a linear drive.

51. The chamber of claim 33, wherein, for processing at least one disk-shaped workpiece, said member is configured to hold at least one of said workpieces with a predetermined positioning of a disk plane thereof, and said at least one disk-shaped workpiece is arranged to be displaceable by said displacement drive in a direction which is offset with respect to said disk plane.

52. The chamber of claim 51, wherein said offset direction is perpendicular to said disk plane.

✓ 53. The method of claim 34, wherein the controlled closing is a sealing closing.

54. The method of claim 34, wherein the closing and opening is performed by the conveyors.

55. The method of claim 34,  
wherein the moving of the  
conveyors is in a linear  
direction.

56. The method of claim 34,  
wherein the moving of the  
conveyors is effected, for  
processing at least one disk-  
shaped workpiece, in a direction  
which is offset to a plane of  
said disc-shaped workpiece.

57. The method of claim 56,  
wherein said direction is  
perpendicular to the plane.

D9  
corrected

---

**REMARKS**

The errors noted in the Specification are corrected above, with the exception of numeral 21. We believe it is accurate to refer to the article by that numeral as well as in its more specific form, namely a storage disk. In light of the objection to the numeral 23 as designating both a bellows and grooves, applicant proposes to correct that Fig. 5 by changing numeral 23 to 22'.

The rejection of claims 1-34 under 35 U.S.C. §251 on grounds of recapture is traversed, and reconsideration is requested.

Applicant disagrees that he is attempting to recapture subject matter voluntarily surrendered in the parent application. In particular, the Office Action states that in Amendment A of the patented file, the applicant rewrote independent claim 1 to include dependent claim 9 which included dependent claim 8 as well. We would note, however, that claim 8 was not indicated to